

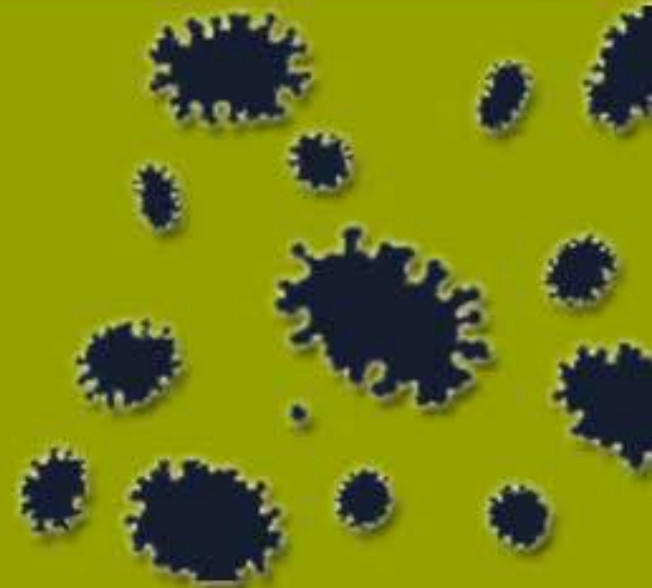


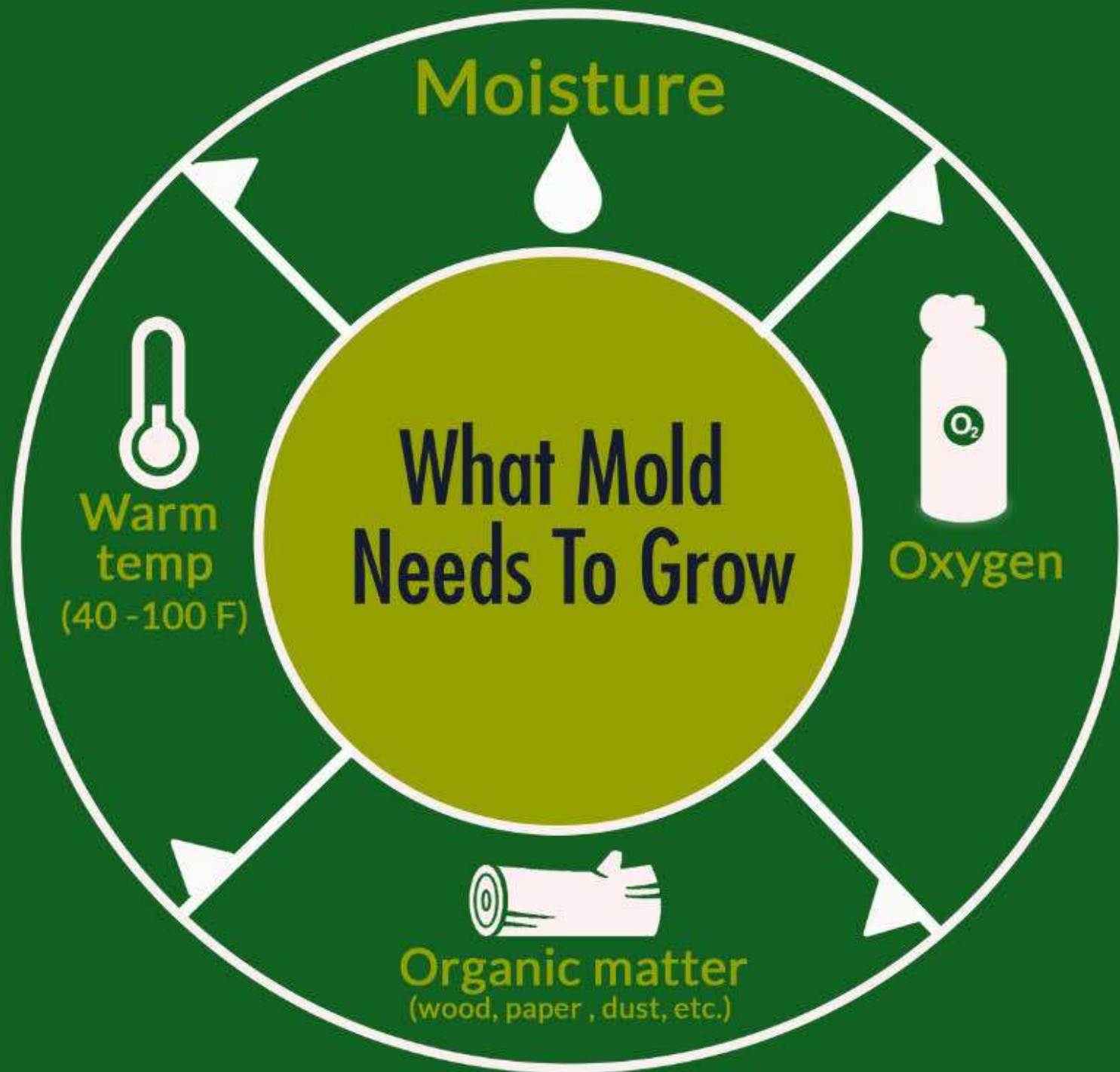
A fungus AMONG US

(THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MOLD)

What Are Molds?

Molds are microscopic fungi that reproduce with spores, are comprised of hundreds of thousands of species with a nearly endless variety of colors and appearances.





Why mold is a problem?



Mold and moisture damages buildings



The perception of mold is always negative



Potential Health Effects



Nasal Stuffiness



Eye Irritation



Allergic Reaction



Wheezing



Skin Irritation



Mold lawsuit payouts have reached 22.6 million

Mold health effects

Most people can be exposed to small amounts of mold without serious health effects.

Some individuals are more susceptible:



Allergies,
asthma,
emphysema
sufferers



Elderly



Young
children



Pregnant
women



Individuals with
compromised
immune systems

Exposure to high amounts of mold is not healthy for anyone.

When to hire an environmental consultant?



Uncertainty
about what caused
the problem



Extent of
the problem is
unknown



Don't know
how to effectively
address the problem



Individuals
being exposed
are more susceptible
to health effects

Typical steps of a mold investigation

Perform visual assessment



Conduct interviews



Gather temperature, humidity and surface moisture readings



Collect Samples (Well, maybe*)



Use scientific method



Drill and boroscope (look in wall space)



Thermal imaging camera



To sample or not to sample ?

There are no national standards regarding what level of mold is or is not acceptable. Typically, mold spore counts are determined by comparing interior mold levels with exterior levels. Sampling is often not needed.

If samples are requested, they may be collected before, during or after mold clean up. These may be:



Air samples
(spore trap)



Surface samples
(tape and bulk)



HVAC drip
pan samples



Polymerase Chain
Reaction
(culture testing)

Who can do the mold cleanup?

Small - If the water leak is minor and moldy area is <10 square feet (SF), often it can be addressed in house (following industry guidelines)



Medium to large - If the water leak is widespread or unknown or the area is greater than 10 SF it is typically recommended that a professional remediation firm clean it up



Always wear personal protective equipment when dealing with mold



Improper mold cleanup can cause mold spores to be spread throughout the building making the problem worse

Steps in mold remediation



Find and
fix the moisture
problem



Remove mold
and decon or
discard all
affected
materials



Dry water-
damaged
areas within
24-48 hours



Remember the
key to mold
control is
moisture
control.

For more info contact: Phoenix Environmental, www.phoenixel.com, 614-746-2695

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